Food delivery/food instrument accountability and control involves the production, issuance, redemption, and monitoring of automated and manual food instruments through retail systems and the delivery of WIC Program foods by non-retail methods i.e., home delivery and direct distribution.

(Retail)

- A. Food Delivery and Food Instrument Control Overview 246.4(a)(11)(iii), (a)(14)(i), (a)(14)(vi), and (a)(14)(xii): describe the policies and procedures used in producing, monitoring and accounting for the production of food instruments.
- **B.** Food Instrument Pick-up and Transaction 246.4(a)(11)(iii) and (a)(14)(vi): describe the State agency's procedures for issuing food instruments to participants, including procedures for verification, prorating food packages, training and proxy policies.
- C. Food Instrument Redemption and Disposition 246.4(a)(14)(vi): describe the procedures used to reconcile food instruments and cash-value vouchers as either issued or voided, and as either redeemed or unredeemed, and redeemed food instruments and cash-value vouchers as either validly issued, lost or stolen, expired, duplicate, or not matching issuance records.
- D. Manual Food Instruments and Cash-Value Vouchers 246.4(a)(6), (a)(11)(iii), (a)(14)(i), (a)(14)(vi) and (a)(14)(ix): describe the procedures for issuing and accounting for manual food instruments and cash-value vouchers, including the procedures for documentation and disposition.
- E. Special Food Instrument and Cash-value vouches Issuance Accommodations 246.4(a)(11)(iii), (a)(14)(i), (a)(14)(vi), (a)(14)(ix), (a)(14)(xiv) and (a)(21): describe alternatives to participant food instrument and cash-value voucher pick-up for issuance (e.g., mail or electronic issuance) and how the integrity of program services and fiscal accountability are ensured.
- F. Vendor Cost Containment System Certification –246.4(a)(14)(xv), 246.12(g)(4)(vi): describe the competitive pricing and reimbursement methods that the State agency will implement to ensure that average payments per food instrument to above-50-percent vendors do not exceed average payments per food instrument to comparable regular vendors.

(Non-Retail)

G. Home Food Delivery Systems - 246.4(a)(11)(iii), 246.4(a)(14)(i), (a)(14)(vi), (a)(14)(vii) and (a)(14)(xii): describe how the State agency's home delivery system operates including but not limited to the types of authorized home food delivery contractors, the frequency of

deliveries, and the procedures for documenting deliveries and ensuring safe food delivery of WIC foods.

H. Direct Distribution Food Delivery Systems - 246.4(a)(11)(iii), (a)(14)(i), and (a)(14)(vi), (a)(14)(vii), and (a)(14)(xii): describe the methodology and procedures used in the direct distribution of supplemental foods, including types of foods distributed, warehouse and distribution centers, and the verification process.

Food Delivery and Food Instrument Control Overview Α. Food Instruments/Cash-Value Vouchers General 1. The State agency uses the following types of food instruments and cash-value a. vouchers (check all that apply): Automated - point of certification Automated -central generation Manual - individual prescription **EBT** Pre-printed manual - standard prescription Other (specify): b. The State agency conducts food instrument and cash-value voucher inventories: (Place an S=[State agency] or L=[Local agency] under the appropriate column to designate primary responsibility): **Automated** Manual Daily L Daily Weekly L Weekly Monthly L Monthly Yearly L Yearly Other (specify): Other (specify): The automated food instrument and cash-value voucher contains/allows for the c. following information (check all that apply): Not applicable Local agency identifier Participant WIC ID number Vendor/farmer endorsement Countersignature for participant/proxy Provide a facsimile or FI in Appendix or cite Procedure Manual d. The State agency provides a toll-free number on the food instrument and cash-value voucher for participant/vendor/farmer inquiries: ☐ Food Instrument ☐ Cash-value voucher Neither Neither **ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix** and/or Procedure Manual (citation): 2. Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Accountability Food instruments/Cash-Value Voucher are delivered to local agencies by: a. Local agency staff State agency staff **US Postal Service** On-demand printing Contracted service (i.e., UPS, Purolator, etc.) Other (specify): on demand services (i.e., UPS and common carriers)

IX. FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL

b.	Food instruments and cash-value vouchers (blan	k stock and preprinted ready for
	issuance) are delivered to the local agency (check	
	Blank ☐ Not applicable ☐ Weekly ☐ Twice a month ☐ Once a month ☐ Once every two months ☐ Other (specify):	Preprinted Not applicable Weekly Twice a month Once a month Once every two months Other (specify):
c.	The State agency uses the following procedures to not fraudulently using unclaimed food instruments.	_ ·
	 Signatures on the documentation of receipt are of style implying one person signed for multiple participants. Local agencies conduct an initial review of food for participants known to have been terminated. Inventories of food instruments/cash-value vouc local agency staff responsible for issuing/voidin vouchers Procedures are in place to ensure the punused/duplicate/voided FVs and CVVs Other (specify): 	articipants instruments or cash-value vouchers from the Program there are not conducted by the same g food instruments/cash-value
	FIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix • Procedure Manual (citation): WPM 350-10, 350-	20, 360-20
3.	The State agency has established food delivery p disaster and emergencies for the following (check	
use" da	_	
ADDI'	TIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix	

A. Food Delivery and FI Control Overview

and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

B. **Food Instrument Pick-up**

	1
1.	Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Pick-Up Policy and Procedures
a.	Food instruments/cash-value vouchers are issued by (check all that apply):
	All Locals Local agency director Local agency nutritionist Local agency paraprofessional Clerical staff Other (specify):
b.	The State agency utilizes a participant identification card:
	If yes, issuance is controlled numerically and each card is accounted for:
	☐ Yes No
с.	The State agency requires the following proof of receipt when issuing automated food instruments/cash-value vouchers:
	 ☑ Participant/parent/caretaker/proxy signature block on register confirming receipt ☐ Carbon copy of food instrument/cash-value voucher ☑ Local agency staff initials ☑ Date of food instrument/cash-value voucher pick-up ☐ Stub with participant signature or initials ☐ Other (specify):
d.	The State agency has a policy to prorate food packages for the following:
to issu	☐ Late FI/CVV pick-up ☐ Mid-month certification Depro-rate packages ☐ Certification due to expire within 30 days ☐ Other (specify): We do not allow local agencies
e.	The State agency requires local agency staff to provide each new participant/parent/caretaker/proxy with training in (check all that apply):
	 ☐ Authorized vendors/farmers ☐ FI transaction procedures ☐ Use of proxy ☐ Other (specify): ☐ Selecting WIC-approved foods ☐ Signature on FIs/CVVs ☐ Reporting problems/requesting assistance ☐ Reporting problems/requesting assistance ☐ Other (specify): ☐ Other (specify):

B.	Food Instrument Pick-up
f.	The State agency requires local agency staff to provide participants with a list of authorized vendors:
	☐ Yes No
g.	The State agency permits a participant to transact food instruments and cash-value vouchers with any authorized vendor or farmer in the State:
	∑ Yes □ No
	If "no," the State agency will eliminate its vendor-specific system on (date):
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix /or Procedure Manual (citation):
2.	The State agency's proxy policy includes the following:
	Limits the number of participants a single proxy may sign for, except that a proxy may pick up FIS/CVVs for all homeless WIC participants in a facility Limits proxy to a specified number of FI/CVV pick-ups Limits proxy to a minimum age Limits proxy assignment to local WIC staff Other (specify):
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix /or Procedure Manual (citation):

IX-4

IX. C.	FOOD DELIVERY Food Instrument Redemption/Disposition
1.	Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Disposition Procedures
a.	The State agency system assures 100% disposition of all FI's and CVVs
	∑ Yes □ No
	If no, specify the circumstances that prevent 100% disposition:
b.	The State agency monitors each local agency's:
	 Number of manual FIs/CVVs utilized Number of unclaimed FIs/CVVs Number of voided FIs/CVVs Number of redeemed FIs/CVVs with no issuance record
c.	Local agencies are supplied with a report on the final disposition of its FIs/CVVs
	☐ Yes (specify period): ☐ No
	OITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix /or Procedure Manual (citation):
2.	Unclaimed, Voided, Prorated FIs/CVVs
a.	The State agency requires local agencies to return 'unclaimed/not picked up' FIs/CVVs:
	☐ Not applicable ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other (specify): LAs void unclaimed/not picked up FI's
b.	The State agency requires local agencies to return "voided" FIs/CVVs:
	☐ Not applicable ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly Other (specify): Agencies shred voided food instruments.
ADI	DITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

WPM 380-10

	Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Redemption/Disposition
3.	Lost/Stolen Food Instruments/Cash-Value Vouchers
a.	The State agency requires local agencies to report lost/stolen FIs/CVVs to (check all that apply):
	 ∑ State agency State agency's banking institution
b.	Replacement/duplicate FIs/CVVs are issued when FIs/CVVs are reported <u>lost</u> :
	 No □ Depends on the circumstances □ Yes (If FIs/CVVs are reissued, it is done): □ Immediately □ Following notification of State agency/bank agency □ After day waiting period (specify number of days)
c.	Replacement/duplicate FIs/CVVs are issued when they are reported stolen:
	 No □ Depends on the circumstances □ Yes (If FIs/CVVs are reissued, it is done): □ Immediately □ Following notification of State agency/bank agency □ After day waiting period (specify # days)
d.	The State agency or its banking institution takes the following action after it is notified by the local agency of lost/stolen FIs/CVVs (check all that apply):
fraudu	☐ Stops payment on the lost/stolen FIs/CVVs ☐ Notifies vendor or farmer ☐ Other (specify): Void Lost/ Stolen FIs, flagged for investigation if redeemed lently.
	Please provide a copy/citation for State agency's policy procedures that ensure that lost/stolen food instruments cannot be redeemed.
e.	The local agency documents in the participant's file that replacement FIs/CVVs were issued:
	⊠ Yes □ No

C. Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Redemption/Disposition
f. The State agency monitors the level of reported lost/stolen FIs/CVVs by local agency:

☐ Yes ☐ No
g. If it is established that lost/stolen FIs/CVVs are transacted by the participant who reported them lost/stolen, the following actions are taken:

☐ A claim for cash repayment is issued to participant
☐ Participant is disqualified
☐ Participant receives a warning
☐ Other (specify): Recovery is pursued if fraud is determined
h. If lost/stolen FIs/CVVs are transacted by someone other than the participant, the

following actions are taken:

☐ Reported to police for investigation☐ State agency or local agency does an investigation☐ Other (specify):

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix WPM 350-20 and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

- 4. FIs/CVVs Redemption Screening (7 CFR 246.12(k)(1))
- a. Describe <u>in detail</u> how the State agency sets maximum allowable reimbursement levels for use in screening food instruments for payment (including whether the State agency uses vendors' shelf prices to set maximum reimbursement levels and how reimbursement levels are linked to competitive price criteria). If the State agency sets maximum allowable amounts differently for above-50-percent vendors and regular vendors, please explain the different methods used.

 Maximum Allowable Department Reimbursement (MADR) rates are calculated bi-

Maximum Allowable Department Reimbursement (MADR) rates are calculated biweekly based upon the prior 12 weeks of redemption, by peer group, by food code. For the peer groups in each of the 3 geo regions that have at least 5 registers, the redemptions in a food code are averaged, the standard deviation is measured, and the coefficient of variance is calculated. The coefficient of variance is indexed to a table which identifies how many standard deviations will be added to the average to create the MADR for that food code and peer group. For peer groups with fewer than 5 register, the MADR is calculated by adding a percentage to the average of the aggregate of the 5+ register groups in that geo region by food code. Peer groups with 1-2 registers receive an additional 15% on top of the competitive statewide average and peer groups with 3-4 registers receive an additional 11% on top of the

\boldsymbol{C}	Food Inst	riiment/	Cach-	Value	Voucher	Redemi	ntion/Dis	nasitian
C.	T OOU THS	uiiicii	Casii-	v aiuc	VULLICI	NCUCIII	711011/DIS	nosinon

competitive statewide average. Above-50-percent (A50) vendors are allowed no more than the competitive statewide average to ensure cost neutrality.

(c) Of prices, shelf	y being perfor ther (please sp For new foo price surveys	proved and implemented from the second proved by researchers at the second pecify) and items without historical researcher price sources are sement levels include a fact wholesale price fluctuation Inflation	University of C Yes redemption dat s are used. etor to reflect:	California, Davis. No 🗌
(c) Of prices, shelf	y being perfor ther (please sp For new foo price surveys	rmed by researchers at the pecify) od items without historical re, and/or other price sources	University of C Yes redemption date s are used.	California, Davis. No 🗌
MADR study (c) Ot	y being perfor ther (please sp For new foo	rmed by researchers at the pecify) od items without historical r	University of C Yes ⊠ redemption dat	California, Davis. No 🗌
California, the groups are a (defined as the cash register statewide average).	he maximum llowed a pren he average re peer groups erage effectiv	in consultation and concur allowable reimbursement r nium of 15% above the con demption of peer groups wi are allowed a premium of 1 e May 25, 2012 and forward	ates for 1-2 cas petitive statew ith 5 or more r 1% above the d until such tin	sh register peer vide average egisters) and 3-4 competitive
	yes, specify the	he percentage and explain he this percentage is approp		gency
	andard devia percentage al redemption	bove the average	Yes ⊠ Yes ⊠	No
(2) The Stat	e agency estal	blishes maximum allowable	reimburseme	nt using:
	ach peer grou ach food instr ther (please sp	rument or food category	Yes ⊠ Yes ⊠ Yes □	No
, ,				
(a) Ea	e agency estal	blishes maximum allowable	reimburseme	nt levels for:

b.

C.	Food Instru	ment/Cash-Val	ue Voucher R	Redemption/Disposition
		\boxtimes		Purchase price exceeds price limitations (FI
				only) Purchase price missing Altered purchase price Vendor/farmer identification missing Invalid/counterfeit vendor/farmer identification
				Transacted before specified period Transacted after specified period Redeemed after specified period Altered dates Missing signature Mismatched signature Altered signature Other (specify):
c.	reimbursei Reimbu Rejects Rejects	ment amount, values the vendon the food instru	what action do or for amount ument, but all	nstrument exceeds the maximum allowable oes the State agency take? s up to the maximum allowable amount ow the vendor to resubmit t allowing the vendor to resubmit
d.	Where pre	-edit screens a	re used, the p	roportion of FIs/CVVs reviewed include:
	X All FIs/ ☐ Other:	CVVs (please sp		age of FIs/CVVs (%)
e.	-	rstem(s) that sc aments based or	_	e limitations and vendor overcharges rejects
	Pre-edit	Post-edit		
			Percentage	ceed or Maximum Prices above average (%) ove average (\$) cify):
f.	The follow FIs/CVVs:		used to contr	rol against unauthorized stores redeeming

C.	Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Redemption/Disposition
	 □ Provide up-to-date list of authorized vendors to participants at certification and/or FI issuance □ Recover vendor stamp when vendor is no longer authorized ○ Conduct compliance buy to verify if unauthorized store redeems FIs/CVVs ○ State agency or its banking institution checks vendor/farmer ID numbers on food instruments submitted for redemption against the authorized vendor/farmer list before paying vendors or farmers for FIs/CVVs submitted for redemption □ Inform all participants who might use the unauthorized store □ Other (specify):
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix /or Procedure Manual (citation):
5.	Price Lists
a.	Price list information is routinely collected from vendors:
	∑ Yes
b.	Price list data are collected:
	 ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semiannually ☑ Other (specify): At initial authorization, reauthorization, and routine monitoring visits and LVL technical assistance visits
c.	Price data are collected by:
	
d.	The data collected has food prices for (check all that apply):
	 ☐ All brands and sizes of supplemental foods ☐ Highest price supplemental food items within food categories ☐ All authorized vendors ☐ A sample of authorized vendors (please describe the sampling method used) ☐ Other (specify): Collection of high and low shelf prices on a market basket of items
e.	The \boxtimes State agency/ \square local agency verifies price data provided by vendors:

C. Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Redemption/Disposition

	□ During routine monitoring visits
	Does not verify on a routine basis
	☐ If the vendor is identified as a high-risk vendor
	Other (explain): LVL TA visits
f.	The State agency/ local agency analyzes price data:
	Manually on a routine or as needed basis
	On an ADP system and uses it to: Generate estimated food instrument values
	Help inform WIC staff on vendor selection decisions
	Develop vendor peer groups
	Flag individual food instruments that appear to be overcharges
	Uther (specify):
6.	System to Detect Suspected Overcharges
a.	Does the State agency screen for suspected overcharges:
	Vos vandar claims are issued for eversharges
	Yes, vendor claims are issued for overcharges.
	No, the State agency makes price adjustments to food instruments submitted for
	redemption at amounts above edit limits
	No No S of the state of the st
	Other (specify): Screen for suspected overcharges by conducting covert and overt
	compliance monitoring.
h	The following best describes how the wonder is billed for everebourses
b.	The following best describes how the vendor is billed for overcharges:
	Based on the vendor's reported prices
	Based on redemption values of other vendors in the vendor's peer group
	Based on redemption values of other vendors in the vendors peer group
	Other (specify): During a inventory audit, the vendor's actual redemption prices,
	are compared to the vendor's state prices or the shelf price on the day of the audit, whichever is less.
	winchever is less.
c.	To receive payment or appeal a claim for a vendor overcharge, the vendor must:
	(Check all that apply)
	(Carron and Carron approximation)
	Provide an updated price list
	Provide written justification for the higher prices
	Provide receipts
	Other (specify): Provide a request for appeal/review of findings

C. Food Instrument/Cash-Value Voucher Redemption/Disposition

d.	The following actions are taken when a vendor has chronic overcharging problems:
	Routine monitoring or remedial vendor training is conducted
	Vendor is designated as high-risk and scheduled for compliance investigation
	Vendor is provided with a written warning of potential sanction for overcharging
	Vendor is terminated for cause
	Vendor is sanctioned
	Other (specify):): Vendors whose redemption patterns appear to be extraordinary are
	selected for compliance monitoring (undercover investigation); and referred for an audit.
A DD	ITIONAL DETAIL . Food Dolivory Appendix

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

IX. FOOD DELIVERY

D. Manual Food Instruments

\boxtimes	DOES NOT APPLY (PROCEED TO NEXT SECTION)
1.	Manual FIs/CVVs Policy
a.	Manual FIs/CVVs are utilized for the following reasons:
	New participants Automated FIs/CVVs not available Mutilated automated FIs/CVVs Wrong food package on automated FIs/CVVs Provide for the special needs of the homeless Food package tailoring Routine monitoring visits (i.e., educational buys) of vendors/farmers Compliance buys of vendors/farmers Special conditions, e.g., disasters Other (specify):
b.	The State agency requires the following for completing the manual FI/CVV register:
	Participant/proxy signature Local agency staff initials Date of FI/CVV pick-up other (specify):
c.	Manual FI/CVV have a "Not to Exceed Value" of:
	☐ Same dollar amount for all manual food instruments \$ ☐ Variable dollar amount depending on type of prescription on manual FI ☐ Variable dollar amount depending on participant category on manual CVV ☐ No limit ☐ Other (specify):
	ITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix or Procedure Manual (citation):
2.	Manual FI/CVV Documentation and Disposition
a.	A report containing the serial numbers of manual FIs/CVVs issued by local agencies is sent to the State agency:
	☐ Not applicable ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Other (specify):

IX. FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT (FI)/ CASH-VALUE VOUCHER (CVV) ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL D. Manual Food Instruments/Cash-Value Vouchers b. Local agencies are required to provide documentation to substantiate a valid or invalid certification record for manual FIs/CVVs issued and redeemed but for which no participant record currently exists by utilizing: Turnaround documents to establish valid certification records Telephone calls to the State/local agency on irregularities Other (specify): If the manual FI/CVV inventories do not achieve 100% reconciliation of all issued c. and unissued FIs/CVVs, the local agency (check all that apply): Reports the FI/CVV serial numbers to the State agency Provides the FI/CVV serial numbers to local vendors Other (specify): (Provide a copy/citation of the State agency's prescribed procedures if the manual FI/CVV inventory cannot be reconciled).

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

E. Special FI/CVV Issuance Accommodations

1.	Alternative Food Instrument Issuance
a.	The State agency has implemented the following FI/CVV issuance policy (check all that apply):
	All participants are required to pick up FIs/CVVs at the clinic or local agency, except in unusual circumstances
	Participants/proxies are required to show identification at FI/CVV pick up FI/CVV are routinely mailed to participants except (1) when the participant is scheduled for nutrition education or a certification appointment and (2) in areas where Food Stamps are not mailed, as these areas are known to have experienced high mail issuance losses
	Benefits are provided electronically to a location such as a grocery store under certain conditions; thus participants may not always pick up FI/CVV at the clinicOther (specify):
2.	Mailing Policy/Procedures
a.	State agency provides local agencies with guidelines/procedures for mailing FIs/CVVs to individual participants:
	⊠ Yes □ No
b.	Policy requires participants to pick up FIs/CVVs whenever certification appointment is due or nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support activities) is scheduled:
	∑ Yes ☐ No
c.	The State agency has implemented the following policy regarding mailing FIs/CVVs (check all that apply):
	FIs/CVVs are sent first class mail *(first class is considered <i>regular</i> mail) FIs/CVVs are sent registered mail FIs/CVVs are sent certified mail FIs/CVVs are sent restricted mail Return receipt is requested on FIs/CVVs sent certified mail Envelope specifies, "Do not forward, return to sender" or "Do not forward, address correction requested" Other (specify): Envelope specifies, "Return Service Requested" for undeliverable
food i	nstruments

IX.	FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT (FI)/ CASH-VALUE VOUCHER (CVV)
	ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL

E. Special FI/CVV Issuance Accommodations

d.	The State agency approves mailing FIs/CVVs under the following conditions (check all that apply):					
		State-	LA with	Case by		
		Wide	SA Approval	Case		
	Participant hardship Travel-related issues Better clinic management Participant safety Participant convenience Cost effectiveness Other (if other, specify):					
e.	When mailing FIs/CVVs, documents	mentation of I	Ts/CVVs issuance is:			
	☐ Signed by the participant at th ☐ Noted "mailed" and initialed/ ☐ Signed and dated by local age ☐ Other (specify): automatic not	dated by local and another	ngency staff return receipt is receiv			
mess		C	·			
	ITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delive A 380-10	ry Appendix a	and/or Procedure Ma	nual (citation):		
3.	Participants who receive FIs/C	VVs by mail a	re sent:			
	✓ One month of FIs/CVVs✓ Three months of FIs/CVVs		onths of FIs/CVVs (specify):			
	ITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delive	ery Appendix	and/or Procedure Ma	anual (citation):		

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

If the State agency has authorized or plans to authorize any above-50% vendors, FNS must certify the vendor cost containment system. A State agency that has not yet received FNS certification must submit a request for certification that contains the following information.

DOES NOT APPLY (PROCEED TO SECTION G)

Note:

Pending the outcomes of the current University of California, Davis study regarding California vendor peer groups, Maximum Allowable Departmental Reimbursement (MADR) rate methodology, competitive price criteria, and authorized vendor selection criteria, California WIC is continuing the currently implemented vendor cost containment system as certified by USDA in May 2009 with the following adjustments:

- Peer groups 2, 7, and 12 (all vendors with between 1 and 2 registers) will have MADR rates restricted to the average reimbursement of authorized vendors in their geographical region with at least 5 registers (defined as the competitive statewide average) plus a premium of 15%, determined by food code.
- Peer groups 3, 8, and 13 (all vendors with between 3 and 4 registers) will have MADR rates restricted to the average reimbursement of authorized vendors in their geographical region with at least 5 registers (defined as the competitive statewide average) plus a premium of 11%, determined by food code.
- Pursuant to Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 246.12 (g)(4)(i)(D), peer group 1 (WIC-only or "A50" or "MT50" vendors) will have MADR rates restricted to the average reimbursement of authorized vendors throughout the state with at least 5 registers (defined as the competitive statewide average), determined by food code. California will observe the average redemption of the 1-4 register stores under the restricted MADR methodology and determine a point at which these averages are stable enough to include in the competitive statewide average and align the peer group 1 MADR rates to the comparative levels observed in 2009. California will at that point seek USDA's approval before re-including the 1-4 register stores' average redemption in the calculation of the peer group 1 MADR rates.

These changes are in alignment with the directions set forth in the letter from Undersecretary Concannon to California Health and Human Services Director Diana Dooley dated April 11, 2012 (see attached).

At the conclusion of the current UC Davis study, a vendor cost containment certification request will be completed to amend this submittal, including any changes to the vendor peer group system, MADR calculation methodology, competitive price criteria, and authorized vendor selection criteria resulting from the recommendations from study.

1. Calculation of new competitive price levels

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

	Describe how the State agency derived or will derive new competitive price levels for regular vendors, which exclude the prices of above-50-percent vendors.						
2.	Allowable reimbursement levels for regular vendors and above-50-percent vendors						
a.	Explain how the State agency will ensure that average payments to above-50-percent vendors do not exceed average payments to comparable regular vendors.						
b.	The State agency plans to exempt above-50-percent vendors from the competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels.						
	☐ Yes ☐ No						
	If yes, how many vendors will be exempted?						
	Are these vendors needed to ensure participant access to supplemental foods?						
	☐ Yes ☐ No						
с.	The State agency applies peer-group-specific maximum allowable reimbursement levels to food instruments during the food instrument redemption process.						
	☐ Yes ☐ No						
	If yes, describe the procedure or process used:						
3.	Describe the State agency's methodology for grouping above-50-percent vendors in its peer group system (i.e., separately or in peer groups with regular vendors) and the criteria the State agency uses to identify comparable vendors for each group of above-50-percent vendors.						
4.	The State agency plans to exempt <i>non-profit</i> above-50-percent vendors from competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels.						
If yes,	Yes No provide the following information in detail:						

a. The reason the State agency has decided to exempt such vendors (i.e., the benefits to the program) and the number of non-profit vendors to be exempted;

	F.	Vendor	Cost	Containment	Certification
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b.	The reason the non-profit above-50-percent vendors are needed to ensure participant access to supplemental foods;
c.	How the prices of the non-profit vendors compare to those of other vendors in their geographic area that are subject to competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels; and
d.	How the State agency will establish the level of reimbursement for the non-profit above-50-percent vendors that it has exempted.
5.	The State agency has fully implemented the competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement methodologies described in items 1 and 2 above.
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If the State agency has not fully implemented the revised competitive price and allowable reimbursement methodologies, describe the current status of this effort and include the timetable for achieving full implementation.
6.	The State agency plans to exempt <i>pharmacy</i> vendors from competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels.
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If yes, the State agency has confirmed that these pharmacies provide only exempt infant formula and/or WIC-eligible medical foods to program participants.
	☐ Yes ☐ No
7.	Complete the three tables on the following pages to demonstrate that the State agency's methodologies for establishing and implementing competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels will ensure that average payments per food instrument or food item to above-50% vendors will not exceed average payments to regular vendors.
8.	Attach a copy of the report(s) that the State agency will use to monitor average payments per food instrument to above-50% vendors and regular vendors. If the State agency does not have such a report, describe the State agency's plans to develop and implement a report(s) for monitoring purposes, including the report contents or fields.

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

Table 1. Data for WIC Vendor Cost Containment Certification - Overview

Please provide the following information on the regular vendors and the above-50-percent vendors authorized by the State agency as of June 30^{th} . If data are not available through June 30^{th} , the State agency should enter data for the period for which data are available, replacing "June" with the month to which the data are applicable.

1. How many authorized regular vendors did the State agency have as of June 30 th ?	1.
2. For all of these regular vendors combined, what was the total amount of WIC redemptions paid in June 30?	2.
3. How many above-50-percent vendors did the State agency have as of June 30 th ?	3.
a. Non-pharmacy above-50-percent vendors	a.
 Number of WIC-only stores 	
 Number of other types of above-50-percent vendors (excluding pharmacies) 	
b. Above-50-percent pharmacy vendors	b.
c. Total above-50-percent vendors (sum of a and b)	c.
4. What was the total amount of redemptions paid to these above-50-percent vendors in June?	4.
a. Non-pharmacy above-50-percent vendors	a.
b. Above-50-percent pharmacy vendors	b.
c. Total above-50-percent vendors	c.
5. How many peer groups of above-50-percent vendors (either separate peer groups or groups with regular vendors) has the State agency identified?	5.
6. How many above-50-percent vendors and regular vendors has the State agency authorized that do not meet competitive price criteria, but are needed to ensure participant access to supplemental foods?	6. above 50% regular vendors

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(Note: If the State agency has completed the peer group table in the Vendor Management section of this Guidance, skip the following table.)

Table 2: Data for WIC Vendor Cost Containment Certification – Peer Group Structure

Please describe all vendor peer groups and identify the regular vendors that are comparable to each group of above-50-percent vendors. The information provided should refer to the peer group system as structured to comply with the new vendor cost containment requirements.

Peer Group						
	Dan andretta ur	Number o	Number of Vendors in Peer Group			
No. (1)	Description (e.g., supermarkets, chain stores, pharmacies) (2)	Regular Vendors (3)	Above- 50% Vendors (4)	Total (5)	Peer Group Number (6)	
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

	Description (e.g., supermarkets, chain stores, pharmacies) 2	Regular Vendors	Above- 50% Vendors (3)	Total (5)	Comparable Vendors Peer Group Number (6)
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

Instructions:

- Column 1 Assign a sequential number to each peer group.
- Column 2 Describe the vendors in the peer group.
- Column 3 Insert the number of authorized vendors that are regular vendors.
- Column 4 Insert the number of above-50-percent vendors currently authorized.
- Column 5 Insert the total number of authorized vendors. This number should be the sum of columns 3 and 4, since the State agency must identify each vendor as being either a regular vendor or an above-50-percent vendor.
- Column 6 For each peer group that contains above-50-percent vendors, insert the number of the peer group that contains comparable regular vendors. The comparable vendor peer group is the peer group that the State agency uses to derive the competitive price criteria and maximum reimbursement levels that it applies to the above-50-percent vendors. If above-50-percent vendors are placed in a peer group with regular vendors, then the number in column 1 should be the same as that in column 6. If above-50-percent vendors are in separate peer groups, then the number in column 1 will be different from that in column 6.

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

Table 3: Data for WIC Vendor Cost Containment Certification – Average Payments to Vendors

Using the format below, provide the latest available redemption data for the ten (10) most frequently redeemed food instrument types. Then indicate how these amounts have changed or will change with the implementation of the revised competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement amounts. Prepare a separate table for each group of above-50-percent vendors identified in Table 2.

Chart for: Above-50-Percent Vendors in Peer Group No. 1

Food I	Food Instrument Type/Number and Description (1)	Number of Food Instruments Redeemed (2)	Average Redemption Price and Standard Deviation Per Food Instrument for (April 2012)			Food	Difference in Average Redemption Prices Between Above-50% Vendors and Comparable	Average Redemption Price Per Food Instrument for (May 2012)	
Type/N			Above-50% Vendors (3)		Comparable Regular Vendors (4)			Above-50% Vendors	Comparable Regular Vendors
			Price	Std. Dev.	Price	Std. Dev.	Regular Vendors (5)	_	(7)

Instructions:

F. Vendor Cost Containment Certification

Begin by identifying the above-50-percent vendors to which the data in the chart refer. Insert the peer group number for the above-50-percent vendors and write it on the line at the top of the chart. All data in the chart should pertain only to the above-50-percent vendors in the peer group and the comparable regular vendors. Complete a separate table for each group of above-50-percent vendors and comparable regular vendors identified in the table 2.

- Column 1 Insert the food instrument (FI) type or number and list the foods included on the FI. Include no more than two infant formula food instrument types, but complete the chart using the next most frequently redeemed food instrument types.
- Column 2 For each type of FI identified in column 1, insert the number of food instruments redeemed (paid) in June (the calendar month). If the State agency implemented competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels that comply with the new vendor cost containment requirements before June, then select the calendar month before the State agency applied the new competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels.
- Columns 3 & 4 Insert the average food instrument redemption amount and the standard deviation for the above-50-percent vendors and for the regular vendors that the State agency has identified in Table 2 as comparable vendors. As an alternative to providing average payments to comparable regular vendors, the State agency may enter average payments to <u>all</u> regular vendors. If the State agency provides data for all regular vendors rather than average payment to comparable vendors, indicate this on the table or in the accompanying narrative.
- Column 5 Subtract the amount in column 4 from the amount in column 3 and enter the difference here. If the amount in column 3 is less than that in column 4, enter the difference as a negative dollar amount.
- Column 6 Insert the average food instrument redemption amount for above-50-percent vendors after the State agency has applied the revised competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels. If the State agency has implemented new competitive price criteria and allowable reimbursement levels before submitting its request for certification to FNS, then the data in column 6 should be actual redemption data for the above-50-percent vendors and comparable regular vendors. Insert the calendar month(s) to which the data pertain. If the State agency does not have actual redemption data, then the State agency must estimate the new average redemption amounts.
- Column 7 Insert the average redemption amounts for the corresponding group of comparable vendors. If the State agency has not yet implemented its revised methodologies, insert the target date to which the estimated average redemption amounts would apply. In the narrative that accompanies this data, discuss in detail the rationale for the State agency's estimated average redemption amounts in columns 6 and 7. The average redemption amount for above-50-percent vendors may not exceed the average redemption amount for comparable vendors.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix

and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

IX. FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT (FI)/ CASH-VALUE VOUCHER (CVV) ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL G. **Home Food Delivery Systems** \boxtimes DOES NOT APPLY (PROCEED TO NEXT SECTION) 1. **Home Food Delivery Systems Overview** Home delivery vendors include (check all that apply): a. Dairies Private delivery service doing WIC business only Private delivery service Other (specify): Participants who receive home food delivery: b. Are notified in writing of the types and quantities of foods Are issued FIs/CVVs that they sign and provide to the vendor when the food is delivered Indicate by authorized signature on a FIs/CVVs, receipt or signature document, the supplemental foods received Other (specify): Supplemental foods may be delivered: c. Only to the participant of record To the participant of record or proxy of record To any adult at home during time of delivery To anyone at home at the time of delivery Other (specify): ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation): 2. **Documentation** The forms verifying delivery are reconciled against vendor invoices: a. Weekly Monthly reconciliation of the signed FIs/CVVs or other signed receipts or signature documents from participant or proxies. Other (specify):

	T) ACCOUNTABILIT Home Food Delivery	Systems ipants, who sign the food receipt				
	☐ No	Yes, sample	Yes, 100%			
ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):						

IX. (CVV) H.	FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT (FI)/ CASH-VALUE VOUCHER ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL Direct Distribution Food Delivery Systems DOES NOT APPLY (PROCEED TO NEXT SECTION)
1.	Direct Distribution Food Delivery - General
a.	The State agency uses a direct distribution food delivery system to:
	☐ Distribute all of its WIC Program foods ☐ Distribute only exempt infant formula and/or medical foods ☐ Distribute (specify):
b.	The State agency uses:
	 □ Warehouse not used □ One central warehouse, deliveries directly to local agencies □ One central warehouse from which foods are sent to one or more subsidiary warehouses before delivery to local agencies □ Other (specify):
c.	Warehouses are operated by:
	☐ State agency ☐ Local agency ☐ Under contract with a private business ☐ Other (specify):
d.	Warehouses used for storage of WIC foods are also used to store other FNS program commodities:
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	ΓΙΟΝΑL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix Procedure Manual (citation):
2.	Food Distribution
a.	Foods are distributed to participants:
	Grocery store fashion Pre-packaged Other (specify):
b.	Participants receiving food are required to sign:
	A register once for all foods received A register/form for each food item received Other (specify):

(CVV) H.	ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROL Direct Distribution Food Delivery Systems			
c.	Foods are distributed to participants:			
	☐ Monthly ☐ Other (specify):			
d.	Participants with limited access to facilities used for distribution have available to them:			
	W.W.200000 02102220		Services provided by:	
	Home delivery Cost-free transportation Other (if other, specify):	Local Agency	Other y Sources	
ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation): 3. Warehouse Insurance and Inspectors				
a.	Insurance for the warehouse covers (check all that apply):			
	☐ Theft ☐ Fire ☐ Infestation ☐ Other (specify):		Spoilage	
b.	Warehouses are inspected by a public authority responsible for enforcing:			
	 Fire safety laws and regulations (specify date and grade of last inspection): Sanitation laws and regulations (specify date and grade of last inspection): Other (specify): 			
ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Food Delivery Appendix: and/or Procedure Manual (citation):				

FOOD DELIVERY/FOOD INSTRUMENT (FI)/ CASH-VALUE VOUCHER

IX.